

All thoughtful Americans in both parties deeply resent the reckless war-like statements made yesterday by the Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Representative William Miller of New York.

Mr. Miller told his television audience that the Republican Party wants a blockade of Cuba -- which he agreed was an act of war -- even at the risk of war. He did not state that Cuba today, unlike last October, military posed a threat to the security of this Nation. He did not state how many other wars would be started if we started one in Cuba, or how many American lives would be lost. Nor did he state why the previous Republican Administration permitted communism to gain a foothold in this Hemisphere, at a time when it could have been stopped without war.

In short, Mr. Miller had only one message -- to play politics with war and peace in the nuclear age, to risk the lives of American servicemen to give his Party a political issue. Mr. Miller cannot speak as a member of the House Foreign Affairs or Armed Services Committees, for he is not a member of those Committees. He cannot speak as one who has been briefed by the CIA or the Pentagon, for he has no official responsibilities in those areas. He speaks only as the Chairman of the Republican National Committee --

and the American people will want to know what special knowledge or competence entitles him to use his political post to call for an act of war. I believe that both Party Chairmen should stay out of these discussions, and leave the decisions of war and peace to those entrusted with that heavy responsibility under the Constitution.

The President has made it clear that he will take every appropriate action to safeguard the security of this Hemisphere, to prevent the spread of communism, to isolate and weaken the Castro regime and economy, and to see in time a free government on the island of Cuba. Those objectives are not aided by irresponsible, trigger-happy talk from politicians who have no special knowledge or responsibility in this situation. The Democratic Party will not use war as a partisan issue -- and I hope that other Republican leaders and potential Presidential candidates will quickly repudiate Mr. Miller's efforts to make the Republicans the "war-Party".